7: International Bank N. S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

ing the first years of operation. Such a mill would give permanent employment to approximately 50 workers.

Concrete Batching Plant

Iraq will probably undertake in the near future a considerable number of construction projects for which poured concrete would appear to be the best material. It would therefore be desirable to locate in Baghdad a batching plant with ready-mix trucks to furnish the concrete. Standard steel forms would also be needed. A batching plant capable of producing cement for approximately 5,000 houses per year would cost about ID 125,000 in foreign exchange, mostly U. S. dollars. It could be financed by private capital with the assistance of the Industrial Bank.

Glass Works

During the war, two plants at Mosul remelted broken glass to make glass tumblers, etc. These plants are now closed as they are no longer competitive with imported glass.

It has been stated that suitable sand for glass manufacture has been located near Mosul. If the Department of Industries verifies the adequacy and suitability of this sand, then a new glass factory might well be constructed to make bottles, white containers and tumblers for domestic consumption. No attempt, however, should be made to manufacture flat glass. No recommendation is made in regard to the construction of such a plant, however, until adequate sources of material are proven.

Date Packing Crates

The cost of wooden boxes for the shipping of dates has steadily increased and represents a considerable cost to the date industry. At present, the practice is to import the boxes in pieces for assembly in Iraq. It is recommended that a small box plant be constructed at Basra to make these boxes from imported timber. This factory would require only a few power-driven wood-working tools estimated to cost ID 10,000, primarily in pounds sterling, and should reduce the cost of date boxes by at least 50 percent. The plant could be financed by private capital and sponsored by the Date Association. It would employ about 30 full-time workers.